

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00919 181414Z

42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

AGR-05 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10 TAR-01 SCA-01 /097 W

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R 181330Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0848

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0919

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, XY, NG, GV

SUBJECT: GUINEA AND ECOWAS

REF: CONAKRY 0818

1. AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT GOG VIEW OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST

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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00919 181414Z

AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) DURING COURTESY CALL UPON ALPHA OUMAR

BARRY, MINISTER OF DOMAINE OF EXCHANGE (WHICH INCLUDES FOREIGN TRADE, INTERNAL TRADE, PTT, AND TRANSPORT). BARRY WAS VAGUE ABOUT GOG RELATIONSHIP TO ECOWAS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A NEW EXPERIMENT. HE NOTED THAT THE IMPACT AND EVEN THE NATURE OF ECOWAS WOULD NOT BE SEEN FOR A LONG TIME. HE DID NOT APPEAR TO TAKE ECOWAS VERY SERIOUSLY, AND COULD NOT SAY WHEN GUINEA MIGHT RATIFY.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE PM BEAVOGU'S POSITIVE REMARKS UPON HIS RETURN FROM LAGOS SIGNING CEREMONY, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE HOW GUINEA COULD PARTICIPATE IN ECOWAS WITHOUT DRAMATIC (AND IMPROBABLE) LIBERALIZATION OF ITS RIGID, HIGHLY CENTRALIZED AND DYSFUNCTIONAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL PRIVATE COMMERCE IS OUTLAWED, PRICES ARE FIXED AT SUCH LOW LEVELS AS TO STIFLE PRODUCTION, THERE IS A VIRTUAL BAN UPON MOVEMENT OF GUINEANS OR FOREIGNERS ACROSS FRONTIERS, THE NON CONVERTIBLE GUINEAN SYLI IS PEGGED AT LESS THAN ONE-TENTH ITS ACTUAL VALUE AND HAS JUST UNDERGONE ANOTHER MILD REVALUATION REPEAT REVALUATION. GOG HAS SHOWN TOUGH IDEOLOGICAL RESISTANCE TO ANY LIBERALIZATION AND IN FACT IS MOVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION. SEKOU TOURE HAS PRESUMABLY WISHED TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF COOPERATING IN AFRICAN MULTILATERAL EFFORT TO CREATE ECOWAS AND HAS EITHER NOT REFLECTED UPON ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS POLICIES OR ELSE DOES NOT EXPECT ECOWAS TO GET OFF THE GROUND.
HARROP

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